

Topical Study on the Trinity – *Jesus – Our Savior and Redeemer*

Part 3 of 3

Sunday, March 28, 2010 (S-856-KI)

(All Scriptures are from the New King James Version unless otherwise indicated.)

In Part 1 of this three-part study, we learned that God used the Hebrew language to show there is a plurality in the nature of the one true God. In Part 2, we saw that God told Moses that His name is “I AM.” The Old Testament also teaches that God was the creator of all things. However, Jesus took this same name of God (the “I Am”) in John 8, and the Apostle John, Paul, and the writer of Hebrews, all declare that Jesus is the creator. Therefore, Jesus must be God.

In this final part of the three-part study on the Trinity, we will show that Jesus is also our Savior and Redeemer –attributes that are also claimed by God in the Old Testament –and that the Holy Spirit is God.

Only God Can Forgive Sin. Only God is Our Savior

Turn to Isaiah Chapter 43:10

You [Israel] are My witnesses,” says the LORD, “And My servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me.” (Isaiah 43:10)

The Mormons should take heart to what God says here.

*“I, even I, am the LORD [YAHWEH], and besides Me **there is no Savior.**” (Isaiah 43:11)*

Only God/LORD is Savior.

*“I have declared and saved, I have proclaimed, And there was no foreign god among you; Therefore you are My witnesses,” Says the LORD, “that I am God. Indeed before the day was, I am He; and there is no one who can **deliver out of My hand**; I work, and who will reverse it?” (Isaiah 43:12 and 13)*

No one can take anyone out of God’s hand that He delivered/saved. Very important to remember this statement when comparing to John Chapter 10.

Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer [God redeems], the Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 43:14)

Turn to Isaiah Chapter 45:21

*“Tell and bring forth your case; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the Lord? And there is no other God besides Me, a just God **and a Savior**; there is none besides Me. (Isaiah 45:21)*

Again – God makes it very clear – there is no savior besides God. He has so declared from ancient times.

“Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.”
(Isaiah 45:22)

The only way to be saved is to look to God.

“I have sworn by Myself; the word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath. He shall say, ‘Surely in the LORD I have righteousness and strength.’ To Him men shall come, and all shall be ashamed who are incensed against Him.” (Isaiah 45:23 and 24)

In these two verses from Isaiah, God speaks about Himself and then ascribes those things to “Him.” Who is this “Him” that men shall come to, and Who is God talking about when He says that people will be ashamed for being incensed against “Him?” Isaiah prophesies that every knee shall bow to God and every tongue shall take an oath. Does Jesus allow people to bow to him? Is this verse in Isaiah about bowing ascribed to Jesus by the apostles? If that answer is yes (and we will soon see that it is), then Jesus must be the He/Him talked about in these verses and therefore must also be God.

Turn to Jeremiah Chapter 31

“Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. (v 31)... No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.” (v.34)

Jeremiah along with Isaiah makes it clear that only God forgives sin.

Summary so Far

From Isaiah Chapters 43 and 45 and Jeremiah Chapter 31

- Only God is Savior
- Only God is Redeemer
- We are to bow only to God
- Only God forgives sin.

Jesus Forgives Sin; Jesus is Savior

Reviewing Isaiah 45:23

“I have sworn by Myself; the word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath. He shall say, ‘Surely in the LORD I have righteousness and strength.’ To Him men shall come, and all shall be ashamed who are incensed against Him.” (Isaiah 45:23 and 24)

Now turn to Philippians Chapter 2:5

*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the **name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.** (Philippians 2:5 – 11)*

Isaiah records God proclaiming that every knee shall bow to Him, but the Apostle Paul ascribes this verse from Isaiah to be fulfilled in all people bowing to Jesus. Therefore, Paul taught that Jesus is the God of Isaiah 45:23-24.

Does Jesus consider Himself a savior, something that is attributed to God alone in the Old Testament? Turn to John Chapter 10.

Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, “How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.” Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father’s name, they bear witness of Me.” (John 10:24 and 25)

But men are to bear witness of God.

“But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.” (John 10:26)

But the Jews were to be the sheep of God’s pasture. For example, see Psalm 95:

*The sea is His, for He made it; and His hands formed the dry land. Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. **For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.** Today, if you will hear His voice: “Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, as in the day of trial in the wilderness, When your fathers tested Me; They tried Me, though they saw My work.” (Psalm 95:5-9)*

But Jesus says they are His sheep in John 10.

*“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them **eternal life**, and they shall never perish; **neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.**” (John 10:27 and 28)*

The hand of Jesus is the literal hand of God (when comparing this verse to Isaiah

*“Indeed before the day was, I am He; and there is **no one who can deliver out of My hand**; I work, and who will reverse it?” (Isaiah 43:13)*

*“My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to **snatch them out of My Father’s hand. I and My Father are one.**” Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, “Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?” The Jews answered Him, saying, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.” (John 10:29-33)*

The Jews were fully aware of Isaiah 43, 45 and realized that Jesus was ascribing statements that were made by God as applying to Himself. They mistakenly believed that Jesus was a lying deceiver and sought to kill Him according to the law. But Jesus was not a deceiver. He was God in the flesh speaking with the same authority as God.

We've seen from Isaiah Chapters 43 and 45 that only God is Savior and only God can forgive sin (Jeremiah 31). In addition to the above claims by Jesus that these verses applied to Him, does Jesus ever claim to have the authority to forgive sin? Turn to Matthew 9:2.

*Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; **your sins are forgiven you.**" And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!" (Matthew 9:2, 3)*

Jesus is forgiving sin on His own authority, becoming this man's Savior and Redeemer.

Based on Isaiah 43 and 45 and Jeremiah 31, the Scribes are right to say Jesus blasphemes – unless Jesus is God!

But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" Then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." (Matthew 9:4 – 6)

Jesus did not say, "In God's name, take up your bed"; instead, Jesus spoke forgiveness with His own authority.

And he arose and departed to his house. Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men. (Matthew 9:7 and 8)

Isaiah and Jeremiah teach that only God is savior, redeemer and able to forgive sin. But Jesus claims all of these same attributes. Therefore, Jesus must be God.

Now let's consider what the Bible teaches about who is to receive Glory.

Only God is to Receive Glory

*Thus says God the Lord, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it: "I, the Lord, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles, To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house. I am the Lord, that is My name; **And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.**" (Isaiah 42:5 – 8)*

Did God give glory to Jesus; did Jesus ever ascribe glory to Himself?

Turn to John 12:27

“Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour?’ But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, saying, “I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.” (John 12:27 and 28)

God glorified His name in Jesus at Jesus’ First Coming – and will do so again at His Second Coming!

Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to Him.” Jesus answered and said, “This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.” This He said, signifying by what death He would die. (John 12:29 – 33)

Jesus drew attention to Himself – Equal to receiving glory as God.

Turn to John 17:1

*Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. **Glorify Your Son**, that Your Son also may glorify You. (John 17:1)*

But Isaiah 42:8 said God will not share His glory with another.

*“As You have given **Him** authority over all flesh, that **He** should give **eternal life** to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” (v. 2, 3)*

Jesus gives everlasting life – Savior, Redeemer.

*“I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, **glorify Me** together with Yourself, **with the glory which I had with You** before the world was. (v.4 and 5)... “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in **Me** through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.” (v. 20 and 21)*

Jesus claims to have shared in the Glory of the Father before the world was and requests that He will again have the same glory. How can this be if God has already declared that He will not share His glory? The only answer is that Jesus must be God.

This passage also teaches that Jesus and the Father are One in the same way people who believe in Jesus are one.

*“And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, **that they may behold My glory which You have given Me**; for You loved Me **before the foundation of the world.**” (v. 22-24)*

Jesus is glorified and therefore must be God. Importance of the deity of Jesus – Fully God and also fully man. Therefore, able to save us.

The Deity of the Holy Spirit

The Bible also reveals the Holy Spirit as another Person and also God.

Turn to Isaiah 61:1

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn.” (Isaiah 61:1, 2)

Jesus quoted this in Nazareth – Luke Chapter 4:

And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” (Luke 4:17-21)

Jesus claimed that the Spirit of the Lord was upon Him to fulfill a 700-year old prophecy.

John Chapter 14:

“If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.” (John 14:15 – 17)

Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as a He who will dwell in us.

“I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. “A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” (John 14:18 - 21)

Signs of true salvation are a love of God and obedience to His commandments.

“These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” (v. 25 and 26)

“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been

with Me from the beginning.” (John 15:26 and 27)

Jehovah Witnesses claim to testify of Jehovah. But God sends the Spirit to testify of *Jesus*.

Therefore, those who are serving the true God will be Jesus Witnesses since it was Jesus who was sent by the Father (as well as the Holy Spirit) as the one way to be saved from sin and have everlasting life.

Turn to Acts Chapter 5. Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit, but Holy Spirit is then said to be God.

*But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to **lie to the Holy Spirit** and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? **You have not lied to men but to God.**" (Acts 5:1-4)*

In the same passage, Ananias is said to be lying to the Holy Spirit, but also to God. This only makes sense if Peter understood that the Holy Spirit is God.

Summary

- *Old Testament:* God is the Shepherd, we are His sheep. We are to bow only to Him, and no one can take us out of His Hand. God alone is Savior, Redeemer, and only He can forgive sin. Only God is to be glorified, and God will not give His glory to another.
- *New Testament:* Jesus is the Shepherd, we are His sheep. Every knee will bow to Him, and no one can take us out of Jesus' Hand. Jesus is Savior, Redeemer, and He can forgive sin. God gives His glory to Jesus.
- *Conclusion:* Jesus was fully man, and Jesus was/is God!

*For this is good and acceptable in the sight of **God our Savior**, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle-- I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying-- a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. (1 Timothy 2:3 – 7)*